Proposals for mediation to ease Indo-Pak tension

†221. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from various countries for mediation to ease the tension between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) India is firmly committed to addressing all outstanding issues with Pakistan peacefully through bilateral dialogue in keeping with the Simla Agreement and reiterated in the Lahore Declaration.

India's commitment to the path of bilateral dialogue in keeping with the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration is widely acknowledged and accepted.

There has been international concern on account of recent tensions between India and Pakistan, and its possible impact on the global effort against international terrorism. Government have made it clear that for success of this global effort, Pakistan must put an end, on a permanent basis, to cross border terrorism and infiltration. There is widespread and categorical support for this position.

Departure of foreign citizens due to Indo-Pak tension

†222. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of America, Britain, Japan and other countries had issued instructions to their citizens to leave India keeping in view of the tension at Indo-Pak border during May-June, 2002;

(b) if so, the number of citizens of different countries who have left India for their respective countries since then;

(c) whether Government had taken up this issue with the respective Governments;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the response received from each of the countries in this regard; and

(e) Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Some countries like the USA, the UK, Denmark, Germany, Japan, Australia, New Zealand had advised their citizens to leave India citing the build-up of tension in the region.

(b) The exact number of foreigners who actually left India as a result of these advisories is not known.

(c) to (e) Our perception on the issue was conveyed to the foreign governments concerned, *inter alia*, through our Missions which had regular interaction with them and briefed them fully about the situation with a view to remove their misgivings. Most countries have diluted or withdrawn their advisories as a result of these efforts.

Bilateral agreements signed with Kazakhstan during Almaty Summit

223. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the areas of interest shown by in India Kazakhstan during the visit of our Prime Minister to attend the CICA conference at Almaty as reported in the Times of India dated 4th June, 2002;

(b) the details of the bilateral agreements signed with Kazakhstan;

(c) the areas where India would make major investment;

(d) the mutual understanding for economic cooperation in IT and pharma and whether a Technology Park has been developed in Kazakhstan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Sir, Hon'ble Prime Minister accompanied by a high level delegation which included MOS(EA) and National visited Kazakhstan from 2—5 June, 2002 at the invitation of Kazakhstan.